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Law and Order—General

Deputation to the Collector of South Kanara in regard to Police excesses.

* 249 *Q.*—Mr. U. C. SUBRAHMANYA BHATT: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that a very influential and representative deputation of the residents of South Kanara waited on the Collector on 24th April 1932 and requested him to institute a public enquiry into the cases of illegal and unauthorized and excessive beating by the Police of individual volunteers less than five in number for picketing in the district of South Kanara since the beginning of April 1932, a statement of which was given to the Collector by them;

(*b*) whether he will place a copy of the said statement with the names and designations of the deputationists on the table of the House; and

(*c*) what action the Government have taken or propose to take in the matter?

A.—(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) A copy[a] of the petition is placed on the table of the House.

(*c*) Enquiry has been made by the District Magistrate. The Government are calling for some additional information from the Inspector-General of Police.

Mr. U. C. SUBRAHMANYA BHATT:—"May I know why, in spite of the notice being given by the Collector to the Police, the Police non-co-operated in the enquiry held by the Collector?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—"I do not think the Police non-co-operated. The House knows that the District Superintendent of Police was transferred. The Inspector-General is calling for further information so that the Government may consider what further action is necessary."

Mr. U. C. SUBRAHMANYA BHATT:—"My point is that, if the Police had tendered their evidence before the Collector, the enquiry would have been complete and there would have been no necessity for further enquiry."

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—"A further enquiry has to be made by the Inspector-General in any case."

Picketing of Messrs. D. Kanji Brothers, Mangalore, on 10th April 1932.

* 250 *Q.*—Mr. U. C. SUBRAHMANYA BHATT: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that on 10th April 1932 two picketers picketed the foreign cloth shop of Messrs. D. Kanji Brothers, Mangalore, and were severely beaten by the Police;

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[a] Printed as Appendix V on pages 258–265 infra.

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(b) whether it is a fact that they formed an assembly of only two and that there were none others on the public road except the police and the police van in the vicinity; and

(c) whether it is a fact that the two injured picketers were admitted into the Wenlock Hospital for treatment; if so, whether the hon. the Home Member will be pleased to place a copy of the Accident Register or a statement from the Medical Officer who treated them showing the number and nature of the wounds received by them and the date and time when they were admitted into the hospital?

A.—(a) Yes.

(b) The Government have no reason to suppose that the two picketers were alone at the time.

(c) It is reported that one of the picketers, Mr. Keshava was an in-patient in the hospital for five days. The Government have no information as to the date and time at which he was admitted into the hospital. It is reported that he received seventeen injuries.

Alleged beating of picketers at Mangalore on 4th May 1932.

*251 Q.—Mr. U. C. Subrahmanya Bhatt: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether there was intensive picketing of foreign cloth shops in Mangalore on the 4th May 1932;

(b) whether it is a fact that the batches of two picketers that picketed Messrs. D. Kanji Brothers' shop on 4th May 1932 were mercilessly pushed to the ground, beaten and dragged on the road like carcasses of dogs;

(c) whether it is a fact that on the evening of the 4th May the innocent persons passing by on the road near the market wearing Gandhi caps were mercilessly beaten by the police; and

(d) what action have the Government taken or propose to take in the matter?

A.—(a) Yes.

(b) to (d) From a report received from the District Magistrate it appears prima facie that force in excess of the requirements of the situation was used by the Police on 4th May 1932. The question of what further action should be taken is under consideration of the Government who have called for further information.

Alleged police excess on Lakshminarayana Bellala, a Congress picketer of Perdur, Udipi taluk.

*252 Q.—Mr. U. C. Subrahmanya Bhatt: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that a single Congress volunteer Lakshminarayana Bellala picketed a toddy or liquor shop in Perdur in Udipi taluk, South Kanara, about the middle of April 1932 and was very severely beaten by the police;